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**REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE  
EXAMINING GROUP 2813**

**OFFICIAL**

**PATENT  
5298-04100/PM00012**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:  
Qiao et al.

Serial No. 09/661,666

Filed: September 14, 2000

For: **METHOD OF FORMING SELF  
ALIGNED CONTACTS**

Group Art Unit: 2813  
Examiner: Thanhha S. Pham

Atty. Dkt. No. 5298-04100

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile or deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to:  
Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313, on the date indicated below:

December 31, 2003  
Date

*Pamela Genik*  
Pamela Genik

**AMENDMENT; RESPONSE AFTER FINAL REJECTION PURSUANT TO 37 CFR § 1.116**

Box: AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313

Dear Sir/Madam:

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action dated October 31, 2003 to further highlight reasons why the application is in condition for allowance.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 5 of this paper.

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DA*